Memphis Tennessee
14th Octo 1864

Hon Wm Lloyd Garrison
Pres. Am. Anti Slavery Society
Boston Mass.
Sir.

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While we have confidence that the institution of American Slavery must perish with the rebellion in its behalf, we are also well persuaded that for years to come, say five or more the freedmen of this state will be subject to legislation in which they have no voice and but little of sympathy. In other words, it seems apparent to us that the colored population of Tennessee will receive only such privileges as may be accorded them by the whites, many of whom probably a large majority at least opposed to their advancement.

We are advised that a Convention will soon be called of delegates Elected by and from the people, for the purpose of revising our State Constitution or perhaps what would be better, to make a new one.

We are also of opinion that soon after the assembling of the proposed Convention, and Election of Representatives to the Legislature will be held and our General Assembly again organized, all of which may occur within six months from this time,

These with many other reasons, the

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Enumeration of which is unnecessary in communicating with one who has devoted a lifetime in behalf of this oppressed people, impel us to seek for aid from abroad, to enlighten the people of this Slave Cursed country upon all subjects embraced in its transition from Slave to Free territory.

Popular Sentiment in this State must be changed ere the Freedman can enjoy Liberty. The Society over which you have so long and ably presided, controls, we are informed an army of talent. Cannot we in Tennessee have the benefit of their labor for a season?

If possible to have a visit from you we feel assured that your eloquence would effect a great work. There is much said here now against Slavery as unprofitable, but we need the assistance of Reformers upon principle- men who will teach the people that it is a Crime against Man, a Sin against God, and thus remove prejudice against the Freedman on account of his color and condition.

We regard it most important to have such assistance as soon after the Presidential Election as possible, to the end that a thoroughly Enlightened Anti Slavery Representation may be secured in the Expected Convention for much of weal or woe to the

colored people of the State depends upon its action, as it will give shape character and tone to future legislation.

With labor from such Orators as Chas C Burleigh, Parker Pillsbury, and others, who have been long and earnestly engaged with them, we believe that in a few years our State will cease to make color a condition to free citizenship.

Will you be kind enough to advise us as to how we may obtain the service desired? Cannot the American Anti Slavery Society devote some attention to this new and great field?

A reply at your earliest convenience will be deemed a favor. With sentiments of profound respect we subscribe ourselves

Your obdt Servts

James B. Bingham
Wm H. Fitch Jr
William Wallace
P. M. Downey